

**PERRY COUNTY COUNCIL  
MINUTES – AUGUST 23, 2012**

The Perry County Council met on the above date at 4:30 p.m. as was duly advertised. Council members in attendance were: President Alan Cassidy, Pro-tem Steve Goodson, Stan Goffinet, Merle Doogs, James Adams, Chet Mathena and Ron Crawford Sr. A media representative from the Perry County News was also present.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The meeting was conducted by Pro-tem Steve Goodson.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes from the meeting of July 26, 2012 had been mailed to each council member for his review. Alan made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, and Chet seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0 with Merle abstaining.

**TRANSFERS**

Perry County Sheriff Lee Chestnut requested a transfer within the Jail budget in the amount of \$11,000 from Jail Officers Salary with \$6,000 going to Part Time Jail Officers Salary and \$5,000 to part Time Matron Salary.

Judge Lucy Goffinet requested a transfer of \$750 from Guardian Ad Litem to Travel within the Supplemental Adult Probation fund.

The Perry County Commissioners requested a transfer within the Cumulative Capital Development fund from Building Maintenance to Janitorial Equipment in the amount of \$2,000.

The Prosecuting Attorney requested a transfer in the amount of \$1,000 from Trial Expenses to Office Supplies within the Pretrial Diversion Fund.

Merle made a motion to approve all transfer requests and Jim seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

**TRANSFER APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE**

**CC-12-09**

WHEREAS, IT HAS BEEN DETERMINED THAT IT IS NOW NECESSARY TO TRANSFER MONEY FROM ONE MAJOR BUDGET CLASSIFICATION TO ANOTHER MAJOR BUDGET CLASSIFICATION IN THE FOLLOWING NAMED BUDGET; NOW THEREFORE:

SEC. 1. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF PERRY COUNTY, PERRY COUNTY, INDIANA, THAT THE FOLLOWING TRANSFERS BE MADE IN THE FOLLOWING MADE BUDGET:

**COUNTY GENERAL FUND**

<b>TRANSFER \$ 11,000</b>		
<b>FROM:</b>	<b>ACCOUNT #0101-380-1000.15</b>	
	<b>JAIL OFFICERS SALARY</b>	<b>\$ 11,000.00</b>
<b>TO:</b>	<b>ACCOUNT #0101-380-1000.18</b>	
	<b>PART TIME MATRON SALARY</b>	<b>\$ 5,000.00</b>
<b>TO:</b>	<b>ACCOUNT #0101-380-1000.17</b>	
	<b>PART TIME JAIL OFFICERS</b>	<b>\$ 6,000.00</b>
<b>WITHIN:</b>	<b>JAIL BUDGET</b>	

**SUPPLEMENTAL ADULT PROBATION FUND**

**TRANSFER \$ 750.00**  
**FROM: ACCOUNT #0507-232-3000.17**  
**GUARDIAN AD LITEM \$ 750.00**  
**TO: ACCOUNT #0507-232-3000.22**  
**TRAVEL**  
**WITHIN: CIRCUIT COURT BUDGET**

**PRETRIAL DIVERSION FUND**

**TRANSFER \$ 11,000.00**  
**FROM: ACCOUNT #0511-009-3000.96**  
**TRIAL EXPENSES \$ 1,000.00**  
**TO: ACCOUNT #0511-009-2000.11**  
**OFFICE SUPPLIES**  
**WITHIN: PROSECUTOR BUDGET**

**CUMULATIVE CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT FUND**

**TRANSFER \$ 2,000.00**  
**FROM: ACCOUNT #2391-161-3000.61**  
**BUILDING MAINTENANCE \$ 2,000.00**  
**TO: ACCOUNT #2391-161-4000.68**  
**JANITORIAL EQUIPMENT**  
**WITHIN: COURTHOUSE BUDGET**

**ADOPTED THIS 23<sup>RD</sup> DAY OF AUGUST, 2012.**

**NAY**

**AYE**  
**ALAN CASSIDY /S/**  
**STEVE GOODSON/S/**  
**STAN GOFFINET/S/**  
**MERLE DOOGS /S/**  
**JAMES K ADAMS /S/**  
**CHESTER MATHENA /S/**  
**RON CRAWFORD SR. /S/**

**ATTEST:**  
**CONNIE A. BERGER /S/**  
**PERRY COUNTY AUDITOR**

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS**

Sheriff Lee Chestnut requested an additional appropriation within the Sheriff Department in the amount of \$13,500 for Gas & Oil for Police Cars. Stan made the motion to approve the request and Merle seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0

Perry County Coroner, Charlie Baumister, request an additional appropriation in the amount of \$5,000 for Autopsy Fees within the Coroner’s budget. Alan made the motion to approve the request and Jim seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

Judge Lucy Goffinet requested additional appropriations within the Supplemental Adult Probation Fund for the following: Community Corrections Part-Time Secretary in the amount of \$2,175; Social Security for \$167 and \$138.52 for Official Bonds and Insurance. Ron made the motion to approve the requests and Chet seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

Perry County Sheriff Lee Chestnut requested additional appropriations within the County Prisoner Reimbursement Fund: \$500 for Janitorial/Maint Supplies Prisoners and \$1,609 for Equipment. The motion to approve the request was made by Jim and seconded by Merle. Motion carried 7-0.

Mendy Lassaline, County Assessor, requested an additional appropriation within the Rainy Day Fund for Appraisal Support in the amount of \$7,671. Merle made the motion to approve the request and Jim seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

The Perry County Board of Commissioners requested an additional appropriation within the IV-D Incentive County General Fund for the Cost Allocation Plan in the amount of \$3,420. The motion was made by Jim and seconded by Alan. Motion carried 7-0.

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE NO. 12-CC-09**

WHEREAS, IT HAS BEEN DETERMINED THAT IT IS NOW NECESSARY TO APPROPRIATE MORE MONEY THAN WAS APPROPRIATED IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET; NOW, THEREFORE:

SEC. 1. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF PERRY COUNTY, PERRY COUNTY, INDIANA, THAT FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE TAXING UNIT THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL SUMS OF MONEY ARE HEREBY APPROPRIATED OUT OF THE FUNDS NAMED AND FOR THE PURPOSES SPECIFIED, SUBJECT TO LAWS GOVERNING THE SAME:

COUNTY GENERAL FUND	AMOUNT REQUESTED	AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	AYE	NAY
<u>PERRY COUNTY SHERIFF</u>				
#0101-005-2000.31 GAS & OIL POLICE CARS	\$13,500.00	\$ 13,500.00	7	0
<u>PERRY COUNTY CORONER</u>				
#0101-007-3000.17 AUTOPSY FEES	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	7	0
COUNTY GENERAL FUND TOTAL:	\$18,500.00	\$ 18,500.00		
<u>SUPPLEMENTAL ADULT PROBATION FUND</u>				
<u>PERRY CO CIRCUIT COURT</u>				
#0507-232-1000.35 COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS PART-TIME SECRETARY	\$2,175.00	\$ 2,175.00	7	0
#0507-232-1000.21 SOCIAL SECURITY	\$ 167.00	\$ 167.00	7	0
#0507-232-3000.41 OFFICIAL BONDS & INSURANCE	\$ 138.52	\$ 138.52	7	0
SUPPLEMENTAL ADULT PROBATION FUND TOTAL:	\$2,480.52	\$ 2,480.52		
<u>COUNTY PRISONER REIMBURSEMENT FUND</u>				
<u>PERRY COUNTY JAIL</u>				
#1435-380-2000.31 JANITORIAL/MAINT SUPPLIES PRISONERS	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	7	0
#1435-380-4000.42 EQUIPMENT	\$ 1,609.00	\$ 1,609.00	7	0
COUNTY PRISONER REIMBURSEMENT FUND TOTAL:	\$ 2,109.00	\$ 2,109.00		
<u>RAINY DAY FUND</u>				
<u>PERRY COUNTY ASSESSOR</u>				
#2404-008-3000.16 APPRAISAL SUPPORT	\$ 7,671.00	\$ 7,671.00	7	0
RAINY DAY FUND TOTAL:	\$ 7,671.00	\$ 7,671.00		

**IV-D INCENTIVE**  
**COUNTY GENERAL**  
**FUND**

PERRY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
#4652-068-3000.12                      \$ 3,420.00                      \$ 3,420.00                      7                      0  
COST ALLOCATION PLAN

**IV-D INCENTIVE**  
**COUNTY GENERAL**  
**FUND TOTAL:                      \$ 3,420.00                      \$ 3,420.00**

**ADOPTED THIS 23<sup>RD</sup> DAY OF AUGUST, 2012.**

**NAY**

**AYE**  
**ALAN CASSIDY /S/**  
**STEVE GOODSON/S/**  
**STAN GOFFINET/S/**  
**MERLE DOOGS /S/**  
**JAMES K ADAMS /S/**  
**CHESTER MATHENA /S/**  
**RON CRAWFORD SR. /S/**

**ATTEST:**  
**CONNIE A. BERGER /S/**  
**PERRY COUNTY AUDITOR**

**AMENDMENT TO SALARY ORDINANCE**  
County Auditor, Connie Berger, explained that since the County Council allowed the Community Corrections Part-Time Secretary position within the Supplemental Adult Probation Fund the salary ordinance would need to be amended. The proposed salary is \$7.25 per hour. Alan made the motion to amend the salary ordinance and Merle seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

**TAX ABATEMENT**  
Jim Tyler, County Council Attorney, attended the meeting and explained that at the June County Council meeting they started the process for the Tax Abatement request by ATTC. They had passed a resolution for a 9,667 square foot multipurpose addition to the current building. The addition will include a training facility, a multi-purpose hall, a gym, and meeting rooms. Before the County Council this evening was the Confirming Resolutions on the request. Jim explained that this was the time for the public to make any comments on the project. There were no comments from the public on the request. Jim explained a Confirming Resolution would have to be approved and also the council would have to approve the Statement of Benefits.

Ron made the motion to approve the Resolution Confirming of Designation on the addition from Resolution No. R-CC-12-5 passed at the June County Council meeting. Chet seconded the motion and motion carried 7-0. (See attachment “A” Resolution No. R-CC-12-7)

Alan made the motion to approve the 10 year tax abatement request on the addition, and Jim seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

**RESOLUTION**  
The County Council members had before them a resolution to transfer the cash balance in the Debt Service-Multi Purpose Building Fund to the Rainy Day Fund. The amount to be transferred was \$2,093.55. After cash is transferred the Debt Service-Multi Purpose fund will be closed. Stan made the motion to approve the resolution and Merle seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0. (See Attachment “B” Resolution No. R-CC-12-8)

### **DECLARATION OF COUNTY TAX RATES**

The County Council had before them the Declaration of County Tax Rates for Fiscal Year October 1, 2012 – September 30, 2013. County Auditor, Connie Berger, explained that each year the county is required to certify Income Tax Rates. The following proposed rates would be certified to the Indiana Department of Revenue: County Option Income Tax (COIT) .005 and County Economic Development Income Tax (CEDIT) .0106. Jim made the motion to approve the rates and Merle seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

### **COUNTY HEALTH INSURANCE DISCUSSION**

County Council member Ron Crawford explained that he had several items to discuss about the County's Health Insurance plan. He explained that there are approximately 119 full time employees and of those 119 employees 12 comprise of the council members, commissioners, coroner and surveyor who he considers part-time employees, but are eligible for health insurance. He stated that if you include only regular meetings and the annual budget meetings, a council member works approximately 21 hours a year, and that would make their salary \$242 per hour. He did not figure what the hourly rate of pay would be for county commissioners, but feels that there is a large difference between what other elected officials and employees make compared to the council and commissioners.

He explained that at the current time the county offers a two-tier insurance plan covering either an employee or an employee and family members, plus a special plan for elected officials only called spouse-only coverage which allows any elected official that is not on the county insurance plan to cover his or her spouse. Ron felt that most people did not know about this coverage. He explained that he had asked for several meetings with the auditor to discuss this special insurance, along with a meeting with Dunn and Associates for answers to his many questions on insurance. Ron stated that he finally got the information that the special insurance coverage was passed in January of 2009. Ron stated that apparently the trustees for the insurance passed the amendment for this special coverage, but employees who could take advantage of the coverage knew nothing about it. Ron feels that the county is not an equal-opportunity employer because this so called spouse only coverage and is for elected officials only and not all employees.

Ron suggested that the county consider a four-tier plan for insurance coverage in 2013. The four-tier plan would be coverage for one employee, an employee and his or her spouse, an employee with one child or an employee with more family members. He figured that the county could save \$37,075 under such a plan. If the county would not offer insurance to the commissioners, council, coroner and surveyor this would be enough savings to offer county employees a 25 cent per hour raise.

Ron stated that he was going to offer a motion on this subject, but can only offer it one way. "If you vote in favor of my motion, then you believe our employees deserve a raise, and a vote against this motion says I'm worth that \$830 and I really don't care about our employees too much."

Ron made the following motion: that the council will no longer furnish health insurance for themselves the commissioners, coroner, or surveyor as of January 1, 2013. Stan seconded the motion.

Council Member Chet Mathena commended Ron for working hard on the proposal, but said he disagreed. Chet stated that most people in this day and age realize that most things in life are not free. He went on to say that we usually get what we pay for. If we as taxpaying citizens want to attract quality candidates for county offices, then we must realize some form of external incentive may be necessary. Allowing candidates access to our county insurance program may be one of the least expensive ways of doing this. Chet wanted to assure all that he is very much in favor of giving employees a raise for next year. Chet stated that he questioned the so-called part-time aspect of Ron's statement because he is on duty 24 hours a day.

Council Member Stan Goffinet stated that he does not think part-time officials should be eligible for the insurance since other part-time employees are not allowed to have the insurance. He would like for the commissioners to look at a four-tier plan and see if it could help with the cost of the insurance.

Council Member Alan Cassidy stated that insurance offerings haven't changed much since he began serving on the county and if he was under 65 and needed the insurance he sure could not vote for not getting it.

Council Member Jim Adams stated that it is part of the plan that has always been offered in this position and he feels he has a lot bigger responsibility than the part time person does. He explained that he gets stopped in restaurants, receives calls at night, and feels he is on call 24-7.

County Attorney, Jim Tyler, reminded the council members that the commissioners make the decisions about insurance coverage. He suggested to Ron that the best the council could do was to provide a nonbinding recommendation to them. County Auditor, Connie Berger, stated that the rates for 2013 will not be available until late November or early December, so when the council is working on budget in the next few weeks, those rates will not be available.

Pro-tem Steve Goodson reminded the council members that there was a motion on the floor made by Ron and seconded by Stan. A vote was taken with a show of hands. Ron and Stan voted in favor of the motion. Steve, Alan, Jim and Chet voted against the motion, and Merle abstained from voting by saying that after December 31 he will not be involved.

### **SHERIFF'S OFFICE AND DETENTION CENTER**

County Council Member Chet Mathena made the following statement: "As I sit here tonight, I do so with sadness and disappointment. Just a short time ago, while sitting in this very same seat, I had the honor of announcing to this council and to the citizens of Perry County that a \$12 million cap on a much-needed jail had been accepted by the jail committee. I along with my fellow councilmen was happy to hear this and together we voted to fund the new jail. This information, however, has proven to be incorrect. I therefore wish to apologize, both to my fellow councilmen and to the faithful taxpayers of Perry County. It appears that the county commissioners have seen fit to increase the agreed upon cap from \$12 million to \$12,270,000, well over a quarter of a million dollars. The justification given to me for this alteration was that the bonds issued would not exceed the \$12 million limit. The excess of \$270,000 would come from a different pot. I'm not sure that it matters, that the pot that this money comes from is from the kitchen or from the pantry. It's still tax money from our pockets. It still results in our exceeding the agreed-upon cap since the total sum is going to be for the same project. I believe EDIT funds will be tapped for the \$270,000." Chet continued by saying "these funds could have been used for other purposes. I guess as any child could tell you, while in the candy store, get all you can while the getting is good. I firmly believe that our commissioners could have functioned with the allotted sum of \$12 million since the low bid was only \$10,035,000. There would not have been as many goodies added, but we would've kept our promise as stated by me to the councilmen and to the taxpayers. The taxpayers can rest assured that through the efforts of many people over a long period of time they will be getting a really fine jail facility that they can be proud of. But please, accept my apology. I did not mean to mislead you."

Council member Stan Goffinet stated that he thought it would never go over \$12 million. I thought they had to come back to us. But it looks like they found the money. I agree with Chet, I'm disappointed.

Council member Ron Crawford also agreed.

### **UPCOMING BUDGET MEETINGS**

Steve announced the following budget meetings:

- ❖ Monday, September 17<sup>th</sup> – **4:30 p.m. – Review Civil Taxing Unit Budgets and make nonbinding recommendation**
- ❖ Thursday, September 27<sup>th</sup> – **4:30 p.m. – Sessions between County Council and Individual Departments – First Reading of 2013 budget requests – September County Council Meeting**
- ❖ Monday, October 8<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday, October 9<sup>th</sup> – **8:00 a.m. – All Day Budget Session**
- ❖ Wednesday, October 10<sup>th</sup> – **10:00 a.m. – Budget Adoption Session**

There being no further business, Jim made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Stan seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0, with adjournment at 5:15 p.m.

Minutes approved this 27<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2012.

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President, Perry County Council

*Minutes prepared by:  
Connie A. Berger, Perry County Auditor*

